(a) whether tribe shop of TRIFED is going to be closed by Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Move of Andhra Pradesh Government to Amend Land Transfer Regulation Act

905. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribals of Visakhapatnam and East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh are opposing move of the Andhra Pradesh Government to amend Land Transfer Regulation Act for mining in the scheduled areas; and

(b) the action taken to assist tribals in their tribal rights and against endangering their tribal life-style and ecosystems?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry has received a few representations on the subject. The Ministry has also circulated the relevant extracts of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement to the State Governments on the issue and has requested them to abide by the judgement in letter and spirit.

Tribals Status to Gaddies and Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh

906. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested top grant tribal status to the Gaddies and Gujjars of the merged areas Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has since been taken on these requests, so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from various quarters for grant of Scheduled Tribe status of Gaddies and Gujjars of the areas merged with Himachal Pradesh on account of reorganization of State of Punjab in 1966.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Opinion of expert bodies has been sought for as per prescribed procedure.

Declartion of Giri Bar as Tribal Area in Himachal Pradesh

907. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested to declare Trans Giri Areas commonly known as Giri Bar as tribal area in district Sirmour (H.P.) on the lines of adjoining areas of UP already declared as tribal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action in the matter in the context of adoption of a resolution by State Assembly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested to declare Trans Giri Area as tribal area in district Sirmour (Himachal Pradesh).

(c) and (d) The Proposal of the State Government was examined and it is found that the Scheduled Tribe population in the Trans Giri Area is only 0.12% of the total population in that area. Hence, the Area cannot be declared as tribal area.

Exploitation of Paharia Tribes of Sambhal Pargana

†908. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to starvation and exploitation the people of "Paharia' tribes of Sambhal Pargana are on the verge of extenction;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these people have formed any army to restore and safeguard their rights; and

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.